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BEFORE THE
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING
AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition for Reinstatement
By:

OAH No. 2011050298

THOMAS P. MEANO
24922 Muirlands Blvd., #5
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Psychiatric Technician License No.
PT 18523

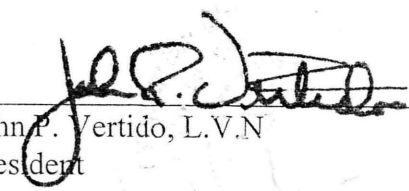
Petitioner.

DECISION DENYING PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians hereby denies your Petition for Reconsideration of its July 14, 2011 Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on July 24, 2011.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 22nd day of July, 2011.


John P. Vertido, L.V.N.
President

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BEFORE THE
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING
AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition for Reinstatement
By:

OAH No.: 2011050298

Thomas P. Meano
24922 Muirlands Blvd., #5
Land Forest, CA 92630

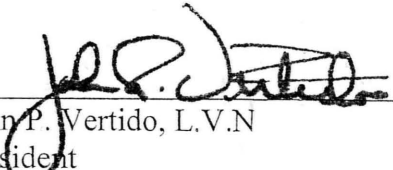
Psychiatric Technician License No.
PT 18523

Petitioner.

ORDER DELAYING DECISION

Pursuant to Section 11521(a) of the Government Code, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) hereby issues this Order Delaying Decision in the above-stated case until July 24, 2011. The purpose of the delay is to permit the Board to review your Petition for Reconsideration.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 8th day of July, 2011.



John P. Vertido, L.V.N
President

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition for
Reinstatement of License of:

THOMAS P. MEANO,

Petitioner.

OAH No. 2011050298

DECISION

This matter was heard before a quorum of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians in Oakland, California, on May 19, 2011. Michael C. Cohn, Administrative Law Judge, State of California, Office of Administrative Hearings, presided.

Jonathan Cooper, Deputy Attorney General, represented the Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General.

Petitioner Thomas P. Meano represented himself.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

1. Petitioner Thomas Meano was issued psychiatric technician license number PT 18523 on August 16, 1978. In a default decision effective March 2, 1994, petitioner's license was revoked based upon his conduct with two patients. In 1985 at the University of California at Irvine Medical Center, petitioner took a deaf, retarded 16-year-old boy with a history of aggression and self-abuse off hospital grounds for an extended period without permission from the patient's physician. During this time, petitioner failed to administer the patient's anti-seizure medication. When the patient returned to the hospital he exhibited behavior indicating he had been hurt or traumatized during the incident. In 1993, petitioner intentionally choked and struck in the face a developmentally disabled adult male patient at Fairview Developmental Center. As a result of this incident, petitioner was convicted in 1993 of assault with a deadly weapon and inflicting injury on a dependent adult, both felonies.

2. Petitioner filed this petition for reinstatement of his license on February 7, 2011.

3. After his license was revoked petitioner took a job in the hospitality industry. He worked as a front desk clerk for Marriott International from 1995 to 2010, when his position was eliminated. From August 2008 until April 2010 petitioner worked as Co-House Manager at The Breeze Home, a sober living facility for women. Petitioner is currently unemployed.

4. Petitioner began taking classes at Biola University in 2002. In 2010 he was awarded a bachelor's degree in psychology. His ultimate goal is to obtain a master's degree in psychology and become a counselor.

5. In support of his request for reinstatement of his license petitioner wrote, "I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ on December 24, 1998 This singular life transforming experience has enabled me to wholly embrace a life dedicated to serving others, benefiting society all with integrity and furthering the gospel." Petitioner is an active member of his church, volunteering as an usher, working in men's and children's ministries and bible study, promoting activities and working in the outreach program.

6. In the petition for reinstatement petitioner gave this reason for seeking to have his license restored: "For purposes of employment, to support my wife & myself & to continue supporting my education. I truly want to serve & benefit society, that is my heart."

7. Regarding the 1993 incident at Fairview Developmental Center, petitioner admits he assaulted the patient but does not recall choking him. Nevertheless, he says the incident was "reprehensible" and that he had no excuse for it. However, petitioner did say that at the time of the incident he was under "great stress and duress" because his grandmother, to whom he was very close, was dying. Petitioner professed to be unaware that the 1985 incident at the UCI Medical Center was involved in his discipline by the board.

8. Petitioner presented no evidence to show that he has undergone counseling related to the incidents of patient abuse or that he has taken anger management or patient abuse courses. Other than a list of books he has read, petitioner presented no evidence to show any current skills or knowledge in his field of licensure. Although petitioner did present four letters of support, including one from his pastor, one from Marriott International and one from The Breeze Home, these letters were all employment recommendations. None of the letters touched upon petitioner's fitness to resume work as a psychiatric technician.

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

Petitioner has failed to present sufficient evidence of rehabilitation to demonstrate that the public interest would be adequately protected if his license were to be reinstated. Petitioner was involved in two incidents of patient mistreatment or abuse, the more recent of which was extremely serious and resulted in two felony convictions. Although petitioner has made significant changes in his life since those incidents, he has not made any efforts to deal with the behavior that led to his license revocation. He presented no evidence of counseling to deal with that conduct or of courses that might prevent similar conduct in the future.

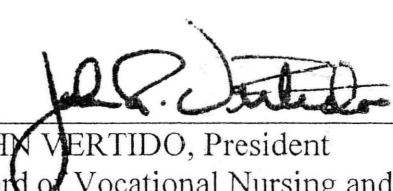
Further, that petitioner professed to be unaware that the 1985 incident was involved in the board's discipline of him is troubling since it evidences some level of denial regarding his past conduct. Cause for reinstatement of his license was not established.

ORDER

The petition of Thomas P. Meano for reinstatement of his license is denied.

DATED: June 29, 2011

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 14, 2011



JOHN VERTIDO, President
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric
Technicians
Department of Consumer Affairs